GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:376
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000
DEPLOYMENT OF MISSILES BY PAKISTAN
PRABHUNATH SINGH;VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `N-tipped Pak missiles trained on cities in India: Report` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated March 15, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon ?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a), (b) Yes Sir. Government has seen the news report, which is based on the publication of satellite photographs on the Internet by the Federation of American Scientists a non-governmental organisation based in the USA. The photographs, showing Pakistan`s special weapons facilities at Kushab and the missile base at Sargodha, were released as part of the FAS`s Public Eye project.

(c) Government closely monitors all developments including the deployment of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery by Pakistan. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India`s security and national interest in accordance with its threat perception.